



“As our families enjoy the outings, parades, and barbeques that have come to characterize this three-day weekend, we must take time out of the celebration to remember the holiday’s meaning. Memorial Day exists to honor the men and women who lost their lives heroically protecting the freedoms we are able to enjoy each day.

During the Civil War, 12,216 Wisconsinites were lost, leaving many graves to be tended to by their grieving loved ones. In the following years, many states began observing Decoration Day. This allowed people a day to join with their families, and often picnic, while they cleaned the graves of their loved ones following the snow melting.

In World War I, 3,932 Wisconsinites lost their lives, another 8,390 in World War II, 729 in the Korean War, and 1,239 in Vietnam. More recently, 127 of our neighbors have died in Iraq and Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

1971 marked Memorial Day’s first year as a federal holiday, making 2016 the 45th modern observance. A national moment of remembrance takes place each year at 3:00 p.m. Please join me as I solemnly remember our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Let’s also take a moment to recognize those we are fortunate enough to still walk beside but who may struggle day-today. Dryhootch provides support for veterans and their families in many ways in our community. Please consider a donation to them or volunteering your time. For more information, visit <http://dryhootch.org/>. Thank you.”